DID ANYBODY SEE HER?

There just paid \$100 to Mr. B. Israel the well-known thestricul manager. It was on a wager. Mr. Levison, I am credibly informed, has not lost a bet in four years. His luck is much better than that of the gentleman from whom I borrowed the \$100 which I paid to Mr. Levison.

The bet itself was of an interesting character. It was made in the latter part of Jane. Mr. Levison, baving brought his season to a successful close, was already setting new trups for the public, to be sprung in the full. We were having a late supper.

"I am lying awales nights," sold Mr. Levision, as the waiter placed a Welsh rurebit and a mug of old ale before him, "trying to think of a new way to dress



'Clothed in a Blush.' Good title, don't

"Yes," said I, "but it really does suggest a difficulty. That will be a very hard costume to secure for the chorus. What's the idea of the piece?"

"Well, it's a lot of good, new gags and some first-rate specialties. going to star Jennie Elwood. Can she kick? Say, there never was anything like it.

"Dood singer" I asked.

"Sing?" said he. "Say, if she opened her mouth, even by accident, the whole show would be a goner. But we'll have music enough to carry the opera. I've got the finest jewshirp soloist in the world, and then there's the chorus. But how shall I dress 'em?

"Why don't you introduce a bathing scene?" I suggested. "Take some of these pretty pictures from the magarines and dress up your chorus to look Say," said Levison, "that would be

all right-though it's been done-except for one thing: There never was a woman in this world who looked well in a bathing costume."

"Oh, nonsensel" said I; "the papers from now on will be crowded with the shapely limb story and the dangerous fascination of the work full of sirens. Can you work a bathing scene into the

"You are talking through your bat," said Mr. Levison, in his courteous but firm manner. "There isn't any such thing as a shapely limb. The design of the buman leg is one of nature's total failures. There is such a thing as a shapely suit of tights, but there's no use spealing the effect with a bathing suit. Pil bet you one hundred dollars that if you visit all the beaches this summer you won't find a woman who looks well n a bathing soft, and I'll let you be the judge. Don't pay me a cent unless you

Well, I took Mr. Levison's bet and he has taken the money of the other gen-Gemon. But I began the round of the beaches with confidence. At Atlantic City I found many of the preffiest Philadelphia society girls. A very fortunate



THE PRILADELPHIA GIET.

e secured me an lutroduction to several of them. I happened to meet a collego chasmate who is now a Phila- places." debahin lawyer, with many clients in fail and others in bankruptey. I had known him in college for a first-rate poler player and a good eight fielder. I, too, wom quite a name in old alma mater's fold. The Philadelphia lawyer remembened me well as the man with the longest legs in our class. So we met with methal feelings of regard and esteom, and the mich him I came to know the riefs. They were all charming, and I already felt gosone of Levison's money hat I spent part of it in rolleving the theret of my dear old classmate. It was the same dear old thirst, too-very dear indeed for the man who paid the chook.

Next day we all met on the beach. Now, in what I am about to say, I hope not to be disagreeable. I don't think the girls were to blame. Some people who have recorded the fact that Philadelphia girls are knock know! have fone It in a malicious way, calculated to effend. For my part, I believe it to be the fault of the cable cars. Anybody who has ridden a Philadelphia cable car knowshow occessory it is to have a good, firm beace. They are always necessaries, and they stop and start with such tearful teries that a girl simply has to have some protection against falling siewes. I have escential a competent mechanic, and he says that the contour of the Lower thinks which I have spoken of is a wise and measurer provision; the best build for the work. The force of evolution never fails to movilly a rane to its oundrious, and in the comparatively for years, efter cable cars were interstuced into the Qualter vity this wonderful change has taken place in

the recent. I have noticed it also in some of the mon, but as they menting abside sents, while the women stand up, the offert is not as premounted.

I bert Atlantic City without winning Levison's money From that place I passed on along the Jersey cost. I encountered the Philadelphia mutal to

various places and by comparison with the others I simost learned to like it. Especially annoying is the type from the interior districts of New Jersey. I was at a loss to account for it at first; but was told by an expert that the broad, flat shape of the fact was a won-derful provision of Providence to pre-vent the girls from staking too far into the mud, while the fact that the toes day downward on the ankle as a pivot when the person is walking can be truced to the necessity of pulling the fixe out of the mud again after it has

At Long Branch I encountered many peculiar types from various parts of the world. There I saw the beautiful, high-arched instep which results from standing on tiptoe at the Moumouth race truck in order to see the favorite

I passed from Long Branch up to Asbury Park, and was on the point of declaring myself a winner when I discovered that the person so modestly and becomingly concealed in a bathing suit was not a woman at all, but old man Brudley, the king of the beach. He had just been arresting a druggist for seiling catnip tea, and was washing himself free from contamination in the surf. The girls of Asbury Park have a bad habit of burying themselves in the sand. Now, if any woman wants to make herself look like an old sailor's melancholy corpse cast up by the waves, it is probably none of my business, but I will not win a hundred dollars on her. At Atlantic Highlands I encountered the theatrical colony. There were many footlight favorites whom I had seen before, but I never should have known them. As they're almost en-

tirely stage people, they den't think it



NEWPORT STYLE.

necessary-as I have often told my wife -for me to meet theatrical people, because I often want to write things about them. It was thus-as I afterward explained it to Maude-that I happened to meet Irma Kickoffski, whose real name is Finnegan. She danced at the southeast corner of the Casino ballet

"Irma," said I, meeting her on the sands, "how you have fallen away! You must have lost twenty pounds." "Oh, no," said she. "I haven't lost them; they've at home."

It was that way all along the beach. Some charm had been lost; some new monstrosity added with the bathing. At Narragansett pier-well, I often wish a really pretty woman would go to the pier, for I rather like the clothes they wear. But they won't. I've watched the place for five years, and now I've given it up. At Newport we find the reverse of the conditions which obtained at Atlantic City. Society-New York society, mind you-bathes at Newport. Therefore, the girls you see there are bow-legged.

At Nantasket Beach, Boston harbor, and thereabouts I found the Massachosetts girls. It is a popular fallacy that they are thin. Their leading peculiarity when seen in buthing costumo is quite the reverse. I have formed a theory to account for it. Accomplishments and cultivation are much thought of there, as every funny man knows, and pothing is more essential to a girl's education than a command of the piano. The Massachusetts girl must practice interminable hours; and it is my theory that by the force that is in constant association the legs of these girls come to resemble the legs of pianos, even to a sort of ornamental ring which surrounds them just above the boot-topa.

This hasty record of my observations does not give much idea of my trials and disappointments in the search. I went back to Levison thoroughly convinced that he was right about legs.

"You'll have to get something better than my suggestion," I said. "A chorus dressed as I've seen the girls on the beaches this summer would scare an audience of deadheads out of their

"My boy," said he, counting the hundred, "I've thought of just the thing. We'll introduce a midnight fire in a lunatic daylum, and have a high-kicking dence of patients on the lawn. It will be right in line with the best modarn development of the drama." HOWARD FIELDING.

Two Swedish Bables.

Two Swedish peasant women at tracted considerable attention recently at the immigrant's bureau at Ellis i. and by the aboriginal way in which they carried their babies. The little ones were tocked in a leather bug suspended from the backs of the mothers from shoulder straps. The bubies would have looked like papoones if they had been a little darker. Peasant mothers of Sweden have so much hard work to do atteld that they have to take their bubies with them. To have their hands free they must put their infant burdens on their backs. Larger bags are used

Ten Tasting. The teamps used by tea merchants in tasting tex are made especially for the corpose of the front French china, and



teas are carefully weighed out and piaced in the cups, when boiling water poured on them. Ten tasters nowedays depend more upon the odor than the taste of tens, and some of the most expert do not taste them at all, but rely entirely upon smelling them

The Woman and the Umbrella. A woman ought to have sense enough to carry an umbrella without endangering other people's lives, remarks an trascible man, but in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred she hasn't. woman with an umbrella is dreaded by everybody. You come down town with her, and she lets it snuggle against your petticoats and drip its cold shower into your boots. Then, when you leave the car, she manages to have that umbrells just at such an angle that, unless your guardian angel has a firm hold on your collar, you're sure to fall over it. n the street she walks very fast and holds that umbrella firmly, so its edges rake your eyes. Of course she never sees you, but you learn to hate her with a deep green hatred, which is intensi-fied if she happens to walk upstairs in front of you.

Nature's Fluid.

The scarcity of water in Paris is indicated eleverly by a Parisian journalist, who represents a scene in a restaurant; time, the year 1895. A diner calls for a bottle of pure water. The water, aghast, goes to consult the patron, as Parisian proprietors like to be called. There is only one bottle of pure water in the house. Its date is 1879, and the price is fubulous. The patron hesitates to serve it to a stranger, but the sight of a large bank bill in the customer's hand is reassuring. The pure water of 1872, in a wicker-covered bottle, is brought out carefully and set before the stranger. Other customers look on with envious eyes, and one asks who the stranger is. "I believe," responds the patron, "that it is the prince of

Reportorial Shrewdness. A certain newspaper reporter assigned to investigate the case of a young woman at a hotel said to be in a trance represented himself to be a doctor so that he would be allowed to see the victim. He put on a wise air, says the Cincinnati Times, gravely felt her pulse, and then turned from the bedside. "What is best to be done?" inquired those in waiting. "The best thing to do is to douse her with ice water," said the pretended doctor. This was done, and the young woman woke from her alleged trance, got up and deessed in a hurry, and left the house in a huff. The "trance" maiden was only recovering from a pleasure jount over the Rhine.

Origin of a Popular Saying. According to the historian Hume the prince of Orange, afterward king of England, is responsible for the proverbial expression about "dying in the last ditch." When Holland was so beleaguered by her enemies that the salvation of the country from annihilation seemed impossible the duke of Buckingham remonstrated with William on his course and asked him to change it, alleging that the country was on the verge of ruin. "There is one means," the prince answered, "by which I can be sure not to see my country's ruin. I will die in the last ditch."

A Natural Conclusion. At the new home for fresh air children at Ridgewood, N. J., the rector of Christ church of that village was addressing the children. He told them how sin tended to mar all that was good, and held before them the illustration of the blossom in its blight and the young fruit in its disfigurement caused by the worm that seized upon them before they matured. "So sin enters the heart and defiles it," he said. Then, after a moment, added: "Now, boys, what is sin?" "Worms!" came back the answer from his juvenile au-

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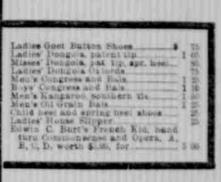
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